

CHAIR



Susan Hornsby-Geluk, Dundas Street Employment Lawyers, Wellington

Susan is the Managing Partner of New Zealand Employment Law Firm of the Year, Dundas Street. With over 25 years as a specialist employment lawyer, her extensive experience and formidable reputation combine to make her a respected advocate and adviser, whether around the bargaining table, acting in disputes or appearing before the court.

Susan is the General Editor of the Employment Law Bulletin, appears regularly in media, and is ranked as one of the top two employment lawyers in New Zealand by international ratings agency Chambers and Partners.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Her Honour Chief Judge Christina Inglis, Employment Court

Chief Judge Christina Inglis was sworn in as an Employment Court Judge in 2011 and appointed as the Chief Judge on 10 July 2017. She holds an LLM (Hons) from Victoria University and an MA (Hons) from Canterbury University. Chief Judge Inglis was a Crown Counsel at Crown Law for many years, with a primary focus on civil litigation, public law and employment law. Most recently she led the Human Rights Team at Crown Law. While in practice Chief Judge Inglis appeared in most Courts and Tribunals. She was formerly on the Advisory Board of the New Zealand Centre for Human Rights Law, Policy and Practice and is now on the Board of the Access to Justice Advisory Group, a joint initiative of the Chief Justice and Chief Executive of the Ministry of Justice. Chief Judge Inglis is also a member of the newly established cross-court Inclusion Committee.

SPEAKERS



Darryn Aitchison, Auckland Community Law Centre, Auckland

Darryn has worked for community law centres – the coal face of access to justice – for over 10 years. He has run clinics and pro bono services at both the Employment Relations Authority and Employment Court. These experiences have given Darryn considerable insights into the barriers facing disadvantaged people wanting to access justice in the employment jurisdiction.



Her Honour Judge Kathryn Beck, Employment Court, Auckland

Judge Beck was sworn in as a Judge of the Employment Court in August 2020. Prior to this, she was President of the New Zealand Law Society from 2016 to 2019 and a partner at a boutique employment law firm from 2005. While in practice Judge Beck acted for both employers and unions. She brings nearly 30 years of practical legal experience to the bench. Judge Beck has also been Vice President of the NZLS, a Convener of the NZLS Employment Law Committee, a submitter for the NZLS to Select Committees on legislative change, and has presented at numerous conferences and educational events for the NZLS.

SPEAKERS



Jordan Boyle, Dyhrberg Drayton Employment Law, Wellington

As an Associate with Dyhrberg Drayton Employment Law, Jordan advises employers and employees on all types of employment law matters. He has acted as an independent investigator, regularly represents clients in mediation, and has appeared as counsel in most Courts.



Greg Cain, Dentons Kensington Swan, Wellington

Greg has extensive experience in employment law and health and safety issues. He also provides advice and training on the legal implications of the Health and Safety at Work Act and frequently carries out or advises on workplace investigations and defends clients in WorkSafe prosecutions.



Mai Chen, Chen Palmer, Auckland

Mai is Managing Partner, Chen Palmer; Adjunct Professor, University of Auckland School of Law; Director, BNZ Board; Chair of Superdiversity Institute for Law, Policy and Business, New Zealand Asian Leaders and Superdiverse Women; and a prolific author. She has recently published *Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Parties in the Courts: A Chinese Case Study* (sponsored by the Ministry of Justice, New Zealand Law Foundation, Borrin Foundation, and Superdiversity Institute for Law Policy and Business).



Liz Coats, Bell Gully, Auckland

Liz is a specialist employment lawyer, who has represented employers in the Employment Relations Authority, Employment Court, and Court of Appeal. She has been involved in leading cases relating to minimum entitlements as well as several personal grievance and Holidays Act claims.



Janet Copeland, Copeland Ashcroft Law, Invercargill

Janet works with employers and has experience across a very broad range of sectors including manufacturing, construction, transport, health, education, agriculture, state/crown entities, tourism, hospitality, professional services and trade areas. She has law degree and a commerce degree from Otago University.

SPEAKERS



His Hon Judge Bruce Corkill, Employment Court, Wellington

Judge Corkill was appointed a Judge of the Employment Court in April 2014. He practised initially as a litigation lawyer, became a Barrister in 1997, taking Silk in 2007. Judge Corkill specialises in employment, civil and professional disciplinary work.



Peter Cranney, Oakley Moran, Wellington

Peter has a trade union background and acts for unions and employees. His particular area of interest is collective bargaining law, including the law of strikes and lockouts and the law relating to good faith bargaining.



Cathryn Curran-Tietjens, New Zealand Police, Wellington

Cathryn is the National Manager of Employment Relations at New Zealand Police where she has been for five years. The Employment Relations team provides internal employment law advice, manages the union relationships and collective bargaining, provides people policy advice, and leads both Police's Early Intervention and Honours and Awards and programmes.



Kathryn Dalziel, Walker Street Chambers, Christchurch

Kathryn is a barrister sole specialising in employment and privacy law and civil litigation. She has worked as a senior Crown prosecutor and been a partner in a law firm, leading the employment law and litigation team. Kathryn's publications include: *Privacy in Schools* (Office of the Privacy Commissioner 2009); co-author *Ethics, Professional Responsibility and the Lawyer* 3rd Edition (Webb, Dalziel & Cook, 2016), *Health Care and the Law* 5th Edition (R Keenan 2016) and *A Practical Guide to Legal Issues for Older People* (V Ammundsen – 2019).



Geoff Davenport, Capital Chambers, Wellington

Geoff has been a specialist employment lawyer for over 26 years. He has worked in New Zealand and overseas, including for the United Nations. Geoff has a Masters Degree in Law, focusing on issues of good faith. He acts for public and private sector employers, unions and employees throughout the country, and commenced at the Bar in May 2019.

SPEAKERS



Judy Dell, MBIE, Wellington

Judy, a mediator for over 20 years, has been in the Employment Mediation Service since 2005 as a mediator and more recently, the Principal Mediator. She has extensive experience in mediating employment relationship problems including collective employment agreements. Judy is legally qualified, has advanced accreditation with the Resolution Institute and is accredited to the National Australian Mediation Standards. She is an experienced coach and assessor of mediation practice, and is responsible for the professional development of the mediators employed in the Employment Services branch of the MBIE.



Maria Dew QC, Bankside Chambers, Auckland

Maria is currently the Convenor of the NZLS Employment Law Committee and serves as a Chair of the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal. In recent years, she has also conducted a number of independent investigations; including for the State Services Commission, the Royal Commission into Abuse in State Care, Hockey New Zealand, District Health Boards, the New Zealand Labour Party and other private sector organisations.



Kylie Dunn, Russell McVeagh, Auckland

Kylie specialises in employment law. She advises clients on all aspects of employment relationships, with a special interest in bargaining and industrial issues, pay equity and senior executive employment issues.



Steph Dyhrberg, Dyhrberg Drayton Employment Law, Wellington

Steph has 28 years' legal experience and is a partner in Dyhrberg Drayton Employment Law, a specialist employment law practice in Wellington. She is active in the pay equity movement and appeared in the Bartlett litigation. In December 2018, Steph was awarded Wellingtonian of the Year for her contribution to tackling sexual harassment in the workplace.



John Edwards, New Zealand Privacy Commissioner, Wellington

John was appointed to the independent statutory position of Privacy Commissioner in February 2014. He is currently serving his second five-year term. Prior to his appointment, John practised law for over 20 years, specialising in information law while representing a wide range of public and private sector clients.

SPEAKERS



Dr Mike England, Fit for Work NZ, Christchurch

Mike is Lead Occupational Physician for Proactive and their Occupational Health Fit for Work. He provides specialist occupational medicine assessments for a range of employers, insurers, Third Party Administrators and ACC. Mike has worked in Occupational Medicine for over 20 years.



Debbie Francis, Consultant, Wellington

Debbie is an independent consultant specialising in strategy development, organisational culture and change management. She was head of PwC New Zealand's Central Government and People and Change consulting practices where she worked on large scale organisational change. In 2019, Debbie led an independent review of the culture in the New Zealand Parliamentary Workplace.



Frank Godinet, Barrister, Auckland

Frank is a barrister practising across multi jurisdictions and at appellate level. A first generation New Zealander of Samoan, French, English and German ancestry, he maintains his affiliation with Samoa holding the chiefly title of Taimalelagi, from the village of Sapali'i, on the island of Savaii.



Christie Hall, Fonterra Co-operative Group Ltd, Auckland

From large-scale restructures, to health and safety; bullying and harassment investigations to employee share schemes, Christie brings a wealth of in-house and private practice knowledge gained in New Zealand and the United Kingdom across a full range of people issues.



Michael Hargreaves, WorkSafe New Zealand, Wellington

Mike is the General Manager, Better Regulation and Legal for WorkSafe and a member of its Senior Leadership Team. He has a long history in health and safety, commencing with the Department of Labour in 2002.

SPEAKERS



Trisha Harrison-Hunt, Employment Mediator, MBIE, Wellington

Trisha has over 35 years' experience in the employment environment. She is an expert in dispute resolution and conflict coaching. Trisha is passionate about working with Tangata Whenua and communities.



Her Honour Judge Joanna Holden, Employment Court, Auckland

Judge Holden was appointed an Employment Court Judge in 2017. Her legal career began with Kensington Swan. Subsequently Judge Holden joined Chapman Tripp's litigation department where she undertook general civil, commercial and public law litigation and specialised in employment law. In 2004 she commenced with Crown Law. Immediately prior to her appointment to the bench she was a Team Manager in the Crown Legal Risk Group.



Amy Keir, Barrister, Christchurch

Amy is a barrister specialising in all aspects of employment law. She advises both employees and employers and conducts independent investigations. Amy is a member of the Canterbury Employment Law Committee and the NZLS Canterbury Westland Branch Council.



Mere King, Buddle Findlay, Auckland

Mere is a member of Buddle Findlay's national employment law team – a team known for their commercial approach. In the last 10 years she has focused her practice on employment law and has gained recognition for her skills in this field.



Shelley Kopu, Shelley Kopu Law, Auckland

Shelley is principal of her firm Shelley Kopu Law. Complementing Shelley's significant legal and HR experience, she is a tribal leader, one of only a few Maori specialist employment lawyers, and well-regarded professional director, holding appointments with Te Kotahitanga o Te Atiawa, Papa Rererangi i Puketapu (New Plymouth Airport), Tui Ora Limited, Youthline and St Marys College.

SPEAKERS



Hamish Kynaston, Buddle Findlay, Wellington

Hamish has particular expertise assisting parties manage difficult and complex issues in a way that does not cause unnecessary relationship or reputational damage, and a particular interest (when he's not cooking for his family and friends) in the strategic and legal issues that drive collective bargaining.



Stephen Langton, LangtonHudsonButcher, Auckland

Stephen acts as trusted advisor to clients on a wide range of employment law and industrial relations issues. He has a particular interest and expertise in breach of fiduciary duty and "team move" issues, misuse of confidential information and restraints of trade claims, the employment institutions' jurisdiction and their powers, and minimum entitlement claims.



Alison Mau, Senior Journalist, Auckland

Alison (Ali) is a broadcaster, journalist and author. In 2018 she launched the #metooNZ project at Stuff.co.nz, leading a team of senior journalists investigating sexual harassment in Kiwi workplaces. To date, #metooNZ has published more than 50 investigations and close to 200 articles and op-eds on the wider issue of sexual harassment and sexual violence.



Simon Mitchell, Hobson Chambers, Auckland

Simon is a barrister based in Auckland. He specialises in acting for unions and employees with a special interest in bargaining issues.



His Honour Judge Mark Perkins, Employment Court, Auckland

Judge Perkins was appointed as a District Court Judge in 1999. He was a temporary Judge of the Employment Court in 2006-2007 and 2009-2011 and was permanently appointed to the Employment Court in 2013.

SPEAKERS



Michael Quigg, Quigg Partners, Wellington

Michael has appeared in various employment forums and Courts over the years and has been involved in a vast number of cases dealing with all aspects of employment law and health and safety matters. He has a special interest in Board and CEO issues.



Karen Radich, Clifton Chambers, Wellington

Karen was a partner in the employment law team at MinterEllisonRuddWatts for nine years and has been a Barrister since 2012. She is the Convenor of a national NZLS Standards Committee which investigates and determines conduct complaints made against lawyers under the LCA 2006. Karen is also on the NZLS Employment Law Committee.



Annabel Shaw, Mediator, Wellington

Annabel is an executive mediator and law academic. She has held roles in dispute resolution policy, system design, management, and governance. Annabel is a co-author of the first definitive text on mediation in New Zealand: *Mediation in New Zealand*.



Philip Skelton QC, Bankside Chambers, Auckland

Philip is a barrister at Bankside Chambers with over 20 years' experience in employment law and civil litigation. He is a former convenor of the ADLS Employment Law Committee and a regular presenter at ADLS and NZLS CLE conferences.



His Honour Judge Kerry Smith, Employment Court, Christchurch

Judge Smith was appointed in January 2016. Before being appointed he was a partner in a national law firm for 25 years. From 1996 to 1999 he was a member of the Canterbury District Law Society's Common Law Committee and from 1998 to 2008 he was a member of the Society's Panel of Friends.

SPEAKERS



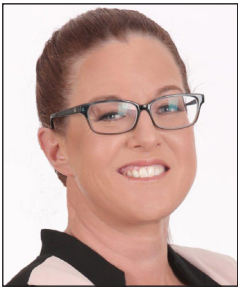
Penny Swarbrick, SBM Legal, Auckland

Penny is a partner at SBM Legal. She has over thirty years of broad legal experience. In the course of her career Penny has worked for the New Zealand Department of Labour as a solicitor, as an employers' representative and solicitor with the national employers' organisation, as a barrister sole before forming this specialist employment law firm.



Nura Taefi, Shortland Chambers, Auckland

Nura is a barrister at Shortland Chambers. She receives instructions in a wide range of areas including civil litigation, employment, human rights, privacy, relationship property, trust and intellectual property matters. Nura also works as an independent investigator and represents parties in investigations and inquiries.



Mary-Jane Thomas, Preston Russell Law, Invercargill

Mary-Jane is a litigation director who leads the firm's employment practice. She is also the Crown Solicitor for Invercargill and has been prosecuting serious matters for more than 25 years. She is known for her frank advice and is someone who enjoys the opportunity to work with people from all walks of life.



Michael Timmins, Office of Human Rights Proceedings, Auckland

Michael is the Director of Human Rights Proceedings where his office brings cases under the Human Rights and Privacy Acts to the Human Rights Review Tribunal. Prior to taking up this appointment, he had worked internationally as an expert on international human rights law.



Megan Vant, Dundas Street Employment Lawyers, Wellington

Megan has significant experience providing practical and straightforward advice on many aspects of employment law. She has a special interest in the developing area of pay equity and its application.

SPEAKERS



Lucia Vincent, LVEL, Dunedin

Lucia regularly represents clients at mediation and in the Employment Relations Authority. She has been sought after to upskill businesses and professional bodies, both in house and at conferences, as well as authoring articles in national publications. Lucia has been instructed to conduct independent investigations into bullying and harassment. She leads the Employment Law Committee for the NZLS Otago Branch and sits on the Audit and Risk Committee as a Trustee of charitable trust THETA.



Ros Webby, Dundas Street Employment Lawyers, Wellington

Ros' significant experience both within the firm and in-house gives her a highly practical approach. This allows her to deliver strategic and business focussed outcomes for clients in a way that recognises and manages risk. Ros also has considerable industrial relations experience and is a highly respected investigator.



Helen White, Chancery Chambers, Auckland

Helen has a background representing unions and their members. Last year she successfully defended the Golden Bay Cement workers in a claim by their employer that they had gained an illegal preference in their collective agreement.



Scott Worthy, Kiely Thompson Caisley, Auckland

Scott is a Senior Associate at Kiely Thompson Caisley. He has particular skills and experience in employment litigation including appellate advocacy and has appeared before the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal and Employment Court.

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